

*Devon*

# SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Medical Officer's Report for year ending December 31st, 1904.

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Area of Urban District in Acres 1184·020, Exclusive of Land Covered by Water.

Population, 1901 Census, 1710 ; Inhabited Houses, 419 ;

Average Number of Persons per House, 4·08.

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GENTLEMEN :—

### Birth Rate.

During the year 32 births were registered, viz., 17 males and 15 females, giving a birth-rate of 18·82 per 1000 per annum. The average for the ten years 1894—1903, was 21·14.

### Death Rate.

During the same period 17 deaths were registered, viz., 7 males and 10 females, giving a death-rate of 10·0 per 1000 per annum, including three visitors. The gross average for the ten years 1894—1903 was 14·43 : nett, after deducting visitors, 13·69.

The Zymotic death-rate (1 from Pertussis and 1 from Enteric Fever) is 1·107 per 1000 per annum. Death of resident in Workhouse, not included in above list, but belonging to Salcombe, one.

Of the above deaths, three died under 1 year of age ; one of 1 and under 5 ; three of 5 and under 15 ; four of 25 and under 65 ; and six of 65 and upwards.

Whooping Cough	....	....	caused	1	death
Enteric Fever	.....	.....	..	1	..
Phthisis	.....	.....	..	1	..
Bronchitis	.....	.....	..	1	..
Pneumonia	.....	.....	..	1	..
Asthma	.....	.....	..	1	..
Premature Birth	.....	.....	..	2	..
Heart Disease	.....	.....	..	3	..
All other causes	.....	.....	..	6	..

Total from all Causes .. 17

### Sickness.

83 new cases occurred among out-door Paupers, and 4 in other practices. Typhoid Fever caused 3 cases, Diphtheria 1, Whooping Cough 1, Epidemic Influenza 4, Bronchitis 8, Pneumonia 1, Asthma 2, Heart Disease 1, Dyspepsia 5, Diarrhoea 5, Parturition 1, Injuries 1, Surgical Affections 14, other diseases 40, total from all causes, 87.

**TYPHOID FEVER.**—Three cases were reported during the year ; the first at 17, Church Street, in July ; the second case at Lily Villa in August ; and the third at 3, Thorning Street in September. No prominent cause was discovered in the first case ; the second case was contracted elsewhere and proved fatal ; the third case was probably caused from defective sanitary surroundings and fouled rain tank under kitchen. Notices were served to abolish and improve.

**DIPHTHERIA,** 1 case was reported at 19, Church Street, on April 8th, no certain evidence how it was contracted.

The above cases were specially reported at the time, and sanitary precautions carried out and defects remedied.

INFLUENZA AND MUMPS were epidemic to a small extent in January, mostly confined to Buckley Street, Island Street, and Shadycombe. Both were mild in character, a sequel from the previous year.

The summer has been fine and cool, with no diarrhoea, etc.

### **Shellfish, Etc.**

Dr. Bulstrode (Medical Inspector Local Government Board) visited me in April, and was shewn where crabs, etc., were stored. I afterwards reported to him that no illness had been traced to shellfish, &c., caught in the Harbour or Estuaries near Salcombe; but considered that neither Shrimps nor Prawns should be caught on the half tide mud, adjacent to the sewer outlets.

Description of District, &c., same as in my Annual Report for 1901.

### **Sanitary.**

Of the items mentioned in my last Annual Report, the following are completed:—

Two defective Sewer Outlets at Splat Cove:—A new Sewer outlet has been constructed, abating the nuisance of an open cesspit in the Cliff. No. 5, Orestone, without W.C., converted into one house with No. 7, which is provided. Nos. 1 and 22, Robinson's Row, no W.C., lately done

Those not yet done:—

Cesspool at South Sands. Arrangements are proceeding with the owner of property here and your Engineer to get Septic Tanks built within six months from December.

Nos. 6 and 9, Orestone, without W.C's., steps are being taken to provide No. 6, and a Closing Order is to be applied for No. 9

SOUTHERN MILL DAIRY, South Sands—Pail Closet not yet removed.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Nothing definite yet to hand as to its construction.

In our systematic and special inspections of the District, self and Inspector note:—

Re Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901, section 132, there are 8 Bakehouses (none underground), 1 Laundry, 1 Tailor's Workshop, 2 Seamstresses' Workshops, 2 Boatbuilders' Workshops (1 less than last year), all Clean, Ventilated, and Drained, with a sufficiency of air space, and sanitary conveniences.

There are no home workers

There are 13 DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS, and the former are all kept clean, but of the latter 4 required limewashing.

There are 2 SLAUGHTER HOUSES, and these are kept clean.

The PUBLIC W.C. AND URINAL on the King's Arms Quay, is also kept clean.

The TOWN REFUSE HEAP is at Bonfire Hill, and was not offensive when visited by me. Slaughter House Offal is deposited here, and it should be kept well covered with gas refuse or earth.

Your Inspector reports:—

Eight New Houses, plans of which were sanctioned by the Council, comply with the bye-laws.

Two W.C's., previously complained of, have been improved and renewed.

A Defective Sewer Outlet at the Pier has been Renewed and Improved.

Three Sewer Outlets at numbers 10 to 13, Victoria Place, have been united and carried to of Quay adjacent.

Ventilating Shafts for Sewer have been ordered to be placed near number 10, Victoria Place, and also near number 17, Church Street.



I advised altering the direction of the Sewer at number 3, Thorning Street, but the Council decided to extend the present outlet to deeper water, in view of future alterations to Sewerage system here. The two latter recommendations were in consequence of the cases of Typhoid. (See Sickness).

The Dangerous LANDING STEPS at the Custom House Quay have been reconstructed.

Some Disused TELEPHONE POSTS in the District have been removed, being dangerous.

Six Nuisances, Various, have been abated.

I may add with regard to the NEW HOUSES, that a house has been built in Courtenay Street, the lower part of which has no Air Space, Light, nor Entrance, at the rear. I am aware it is sometimes difficult in this hilly place to build quite according to bye-laws, but they certainly should be enforced in most cases, to ensure healthy houses.

WATER SUPPLY. The Works mentioned in my last Annual Report as being in progress, were finished in May. The New Engine is working satisfactorily, and the Old Engine is to be put in proper repair and worked alternately. The new RECEIVER is not yet fenced, and water from the Mill Leat drops on to the top this should be stopped or carried away. There is still some SAND in the Water, showing that the Receiver requires cleaning out. On the whole this supply is much cleaner. I am suspicious that Surface Water gets into our Supply Pipes in the Second Meadow, if so, it can be quickly stopped, as there are pipes near to take it away.

I would again notify that your Inspector and self were "ORDERED OFF THE FIELDS IN HANGER VALE, BY OWNER'S ORDERS," when inspecting the Water Supply Sources.

The New Reservoir at the BUDDLE SPRINGS, also Finished and Fenced, supplies by Gravitation, Shadycombe, Island Street, Church Street, and supplements the Reservoir at ALLENHAYS if required. This supply is of Good Quality, and very clean. Two Washouts have been put in Cliff and Bennett Roads, as Deposit and Rust have been complained of. Dead Ends should always have Washouts and be periodically attended to. It would pay your Council to employ a Plumber to REPAIR Leaky Taps and Valves, where not done by Tenant, to avoid waste.

RAINFALL 39.69 inches at Springfield; 36.47 inches at Sandhills. The Average for 1895—1903, 33.42 inches.

### **Sanitary Condition.**

The Scavenging and Refuse Collection, the latter 3 times weekly, and weekly in outlying parts of district, is fairly well done. Some of the Streets, Lanes, and Gulley Traps should have more periodical attention, especially after rain.

The FORESHORES adjacent to the Town are not sufficiently cleared of Stones, Rubbish, and Seaweed, which deter Scour by the Tides.

I would again advise the adoption of a Bye-law, or a Mutual Agreement with Owners, to Limit the Height of Fence Walls to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the hedges should be pared. Our Sea and Harbour Views are in several places obstructed. A Map of the Sewers in the Town is to be made when the New Ordnance Survey is completed.

I enclose Tables 1, 3, and 4, and FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Salcombe, January, 1905.

